

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM Public Health Working Group

Near-Term Implementation Plan

Strategy 5: Promote Community Resilience to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change

CAT Working Group Overview: The Public Health Working Group of the Climate Action Team was established to address cross-cutting issues related to climate change and health. The purpose of the Working Group is to provide a forum for communication, coordination, and education across agencies and with stakeholders. The Working Group is responsible for providing public health input into the AB 32 implementation process, as well as other public health issues related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate change will significantly increase disease burden in California. Public health impacts will result from more severe extreme heat and other weather events, a decline in air quality, increases in allergenic plant pollen, more frequent wildfires, altered environmental conditions that foster the spread of communicable and vector-borne diseases, and impacts on food supply, water quality, shelter, and mental health. Public health has important roles in preventing the most catastrophic climate outcomes through engagement in climate change mitigation, in ensuring that climate change adaptation efforts address likely public health impacts, and in public health preparedness for response to climate-related emergencies.

Working Group Agencies: California Department of Public Health (designated lead), California Air Resources Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation, California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Conservation, California Energy Commission, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Local Health Departments, and Stakeholder Organizations.

Measure / Strategy

- A) Description: Through this Strategy, State agencies and partners will develop climate change communication messages and tools that promote active community engagement and strong social support networks to reduce vulnerability to climate change, as well as encourage citizens, organizations, and businesses to take action to mitigate climate change.
- B) Agencies Involved: CDPH, other CAT Member Agencies, Public Health and Environmental Stakeholder Organizations.
- C) Scoping Plan/Adaptation Plan Reference: This strategy is drawn from Public Health Strategy 1 (Promote Community Resilience to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change), Long-Term Action (f), Support Social and Community Engagement; and Public Health Strategy 2 (Educate, Empower and Engage California Citizens, Organizations, and Businesses to Take Actions to Reduce Individual and Community Vulnerability to Climate Change through Mitigation and Adaptation), Near-Term Action (a), Educational Outreach Campaign, in the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy.

- D) Metrics: The metrics used to define success for this Strategy are process measures that vary with each Task (see enumerated Deliverables below).
- E) Crosscutting Issues: All CAT Working Groups will be invited to participate in a Climate Change Communication Forum. CDPH will collaborate closely with the Climate Change, Land Use and Infrastructure Working Group on issues related to land use planning
- F) Tasks and Deliverables:

Task 5.1: Symposium on Climate and Health

1. Description: Assist in planning and co-sponsor conference on climate and health that is focused on advancing healthy and resilient communities in a changing environment. Recognizing the diversity of priorities and the breadth of activity needed to adapt to climate change, the Los Angeles Health and Climate Symposium will strive to educate and inspire participants to seek more information and to take collaborative, meaningful action to address climate change, design and implement comprehensive state and local adaptation policies and programs that protect the most at-risk individuals, and promote ecosystem-based adaptation strategies that increase resilience and protect natural resources.
2. Deliverables: Hold Los Angeles Health and Climate Symposium.
3. Agency Roles: CDPH will co-sponsor the symposium, along with The Nature Conservancy, UCLA School of Public Health, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, and Communities for a Better Environment.
4. Timeline: Symposium was held in April 2010.

Task 5.2: Climate Change Communication Workshop

1. Description: Many State agencies communicate with the public and other stakeholders about climate change. Communication can be more effective if messages are coordinated and based on evidence regarding what messages result in behavior change. CDPH will sponsor a workshop on climate change communication, and will invite experts in public health, climate, and risk communications to share research findings related to climate change and public health communication strategies
2. Deliverables: Conduct Climate Change Communication Workshop.
3. Agency Roles: CDPH will coordinate the Forum and sponsor expert speaker/facilitator. All CAT member agencies will be invited to participate.
4. Timeline: Forum conducted by December 2010.

Task 5.3: Public Health and Climate Change, Land Use and Infrastructure (CCLU-In) Working Group Collaboration

1. Description: CDPH will collaborate with CCLU-In to incorporate health considerations into land use planning and decisions; expand policies, practices, and programs to support healthy built environments and behaviors; and monitor the health status and impacts of land use planning and implementation through surveillance, biomonitoring, and mapping.
2. Deliverables: As per CCLU-In Near-Term Implementation Plan, Tasks 1.17, 1.18, and 1.19.
3. Agency Roles: CDPH will lead the Public Health Working Group's collaboration with agencies represented in the CCLU-In Working Group.
4. Timeline: As per CCLU-In Near-Term Implementation Plan, Tasks 1.17, 1.18, and 1.19. In general, collaboration is ongoing.

Task 5.4: Public Health and Climate Change Communication Research

1. Description: CDPH will collaborate with the federal Centers for Disease Control in CDC's research project on public health and climate change communication; the project is being conducted by a contractor, Westat.
2. Deliverables: Westat will produce a report for CDC on communication on public health and climate change.
3. Agency Roles: CDC/Westat is the lead organization; CDPH is assisting CDC through participation in focus groups with policy makers and stakeholder organizations.
4. Timeline: CDPH participated in focus groups in the winter and spring of 2010; completed report by Westat is anticipated by December 2010.

G) SUMMARY TABLE:

Deliverable	Agencies	Deadline
Symposium on Climate and Health	CDPH	Held in April 2010
Interagency Climate Change Communication Forum	CDPH	Hold by December 2010
Collaboration with CCLU-In Working Group on Land Use	CDPH	Ongoing
Collaboration with Centers for Disease Control on research on climate change and public health	CDPH,	Anticipate report by December, 2010